Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 2 and 4-21 and add Claims 22-27 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of cutting a borehole core sample using ~~locating means~~ a core splitter comprising a trough, core support means within the trough for holding the core sample, ~~and~~ a cutting device, and a core carrier which can carry a core sample and can be supported on the core support means, the method comprising:

providing a liquid bath within the trough;

mounting the core sample in the core carrier;

supporting the core carrier with the core sample therein on the core support means submerged in the ~~submerging the core sample in a~~ liquid bath; and

then moving the cutting device relative to the core sample to cut the core sample in the liquid bath.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~locating means~~ core support means is fixed and the cutting ~~bead~~ device moves relative thereto.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 using a rotary cutting device.

4. (Currently Amended) A core splitter comprising:

a trough in which ~~the~~ a liquid bath will, in use, be contained[[,]];

a core support device for holding a core in position during a cutting operation, ~~which device is~~ the core support device being located within the trough~~, and~~;

a core holder into which a core can be carried and which can be placed on the core support device; and

a cutting head to which a cutter may be attached and which can be moved along the trough to cut the core along one or more radial planes into two or more parts.

5. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim 4, wherein the trough is substantially watertight and the core support device is located at a position such that when the trough has an appropriate amount of ~~water~~ liquid therein, the core will be below the level of the ~~water~~ liquid.

6. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim 4, wherein the cutting head runs along linear bearing means located longitudinally of the trough.

7. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim 6, wherein the linear bearing means is located above the level of the trough.

8. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim 7, wherein the cutting head comprises

a cradle incorporating roller means that ~~engage~~ engages the linear bearing means,

an electric motor mounted on the cradle,

a rotatable cutting blade that is driven directly by the electric motor, and

a cowling within which the ~~tool~~ cutting blade is contained.

9. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim 8, wherein the cowling is arranged so as to have its lower edges submerged within the liquid bath.

10. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim 4, wherein the core support device is adjustable to permit the level of the core relative to the ~~cutting tool~~ cutter to be altered.

11. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim ~~10~~ 4, wherein the core support device comprises two pairs of support members located so as to support the ends of the core ~~sample~~, the support members each having an inclined supporting surface arranged so that the supporting surfaces of the members of a pair form a seat ~~and moving means for moving the support members of each pair apart so that the position of the core sample on the seat can be lowered~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim ~~11~~ 22, wherein the support members of a pair have aligned bores which are threaded with oppositely handed threads

and wherein a threaded shaft engages the ~~said~~ bores so that on rotation of the shaft the support members are moved away from or towards each other.

13. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim 12, wherein the shafts of the two pairs of support members are connected to rotate together.

14. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim 13, wherein the shafts of the two pairs of support members are connected by a belt ~~an~~ and pulley arrangement.

15. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim 4, further comprising means for moving the cutting head along the length of the trough, ~~such~~ the moving means comprising an elongated screw member which engages in a nut that is carried by the cutting head and which, when rotated, moves the cutting head.

16. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim [[1]] 4, further comprising a settling tank ~~is~~ to receive cuttings from the ~~water~~ liquid bath.

17. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim 16, wherein the settling tank is located below and at one end of the trough.

18. (Currently Amended) A core splitter as claimed in claim 16, further

comprising a concentration tank and means to deliver sludge from the settling tank so that further settling can take place.

19. (Currently Amended) A core holder in which ~~the~~ a core is carried in the use of ~~the~~ a core splitter ~~as claimed in claim 4~~ comprising a trough in which a liquid bath will, in use, be contained, a core support device for holding a core in position during a cutting operation, the core support device being located within the trough, and a cutting head to which a cutter may be attached and which can be moved along the trough to cut the core along one or more radial planes into two or more parts,

the core holder being of polygonal section and dimensioned to hold the core firmly, the core holder having a slot at its upper end through which the cutter can enter the core holder to cut the core.

20. (Currently Amended) A core holder as claimed in claim 19, wherein the core holder is provided at ~~the~~ a lower end with slots through which ~~the~~ cuttings and other detritus formed during the cutting operation can pass into the trough.

21. (Currently Amended) A core holder as claimed in claim 19, wherein the core holder is of hexagonal section.

22. (New) A core splitter as claimed in claim 11, wherein the support members are

capable of moving relative to one another, the splitter further comprising moving means for moving the support members of each pair apart so that the position of the core on the seat can be altered.

23. (New) A core splitter as claimed in claim 4, wherein the liquid bath comprises water.

24. (New) A core splitter comprising

a trough in which a liquid bath will, in use, be contained;

a core support device for holding a core in position during a cutting operation, the core support device being located within the trough;

a cutting head to which a cutter blade may be attached and which can be moved along the trough to cut the core along one or more radial planes into two or more parts; and

a cowling within which the cutter blade is contained, the cowling being arranged so as to have its lower edges submerged within the liquid bath.

25. (New) A core splitter as claimed in claim 24, wherein the cowling has front, rear, top and side walls and wherein the front and rear walls have openings which correspond to and accommodate a core on the core support device.

26. (New) A core splitter as claimed in claim 24, wherein the cowling has front,

rear, top and side walls as well as an elongated inclined wall which leads from the rear of the top wall to the rear wall.

27. (New) A core splitter as claimed in claim 26, wherein the distance of the rear wall from a rear portion of the cutter blade is about three quarters of the diameter of the cutter blade.